New Orleans Nov. 30th

Brother Phelps

You will perceive that violence has been done to this letter, & that it has been rifled of its treasures. The occasion of it I will explain. Brother Jenny received it, & was about to forward it to you, but perceiving 2 or 3 Bills exposed to obvious view in it, & supposing it was money for the Spectator, & thinking that it would make extravagant & unnecessary postage to forward it to you thus, & put you to the trouble of sending it back, concluded it was best to break the seal, this as I was your former Chum, in whom he supposed you'd confide safely any secret Matters which the letter might contain, & handed the letter over to me to open it & take the money into safe keeping if expedient, or else forward it in better order in a letter. I how ever thought it best to retain the Bills, & pay them over to Maltby when I hear from you. I intended to obtain a number back for Gilston & forward them by Capt Baker, so that it might cost Gleston & less. But Baker returned this morning, Gilston is out of town, & not only so, Maltby considers Mr Holmes the agent there, says he received 5 copies of the 2 first numbers & has sent back but 3 of them, that he sent on also 5 copies of the 3d no: & was expecting to send 2 of the 4th number. So that Gleston must probably pay & New Bedford twice. If you wish me not to pay that, just say so, & what Mr Holmes was expecting to give you write

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Br. Phillips,

Yours of Oct. 16th is before me. I was glad to see your hand writing, but I should have been more pleased to have seen the hand that wrote. Capt. Baker told me that you were on the point of accompanying him. I regret that you failed to do so. I hope the time is not for distant when you will find yourself in circumstances to visit your many friends in this place.

The season has passed away without any very special change in affairs among this people. At the present time I have a little hope of good. The most discouraging thing is the coldness of my own heart! It is strange indeed that I should ever shut over sion. My yearning soul [illegible] I would say, "Rest your heart in the love of God." Ardent love to Christ and to the souls of men is the only thing that can fit us for the ministry. We may please the people with cold hearts, but we cannot be approved by God to be a good minister of Jesus Christ. As to the Spirit of the I want it and so do many others but I have gone beyond my means. We have a new house that we feel bound to sustain.

I enclose three dollars for Mr. Horton. You will see that the numbers are sent. I intended to have written much but cannot.

New Bedford Oct. 26 1829.

Yours truly, S. Holmes